

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/3



The Water Babies

Since becoming a water baby, Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, goes to a prison at the Other-end-of-Nowhere and sets free his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes. Promising to be good and kind in future, Grimes is sent off on a job, to sweep the crater of Mount Etna . . .



1. Looking very meek, Mr. Grimes let the police truncheon march him off to do the job chosen for him by Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did. Tom waved goodbye to his old master, and for all anyone knows, or does not know, Grimes is still sweeping the crater of Mount Etna to this very day. Sometimes, the volcano gets choked up with too many red-hot cinders and throws them out in showers. Then Mr. Grimes has to work twice as hard to sweep the crater clean before it covers the island of Sicily with ashes.



2. "Now," smiled the fairy to Tom, "your work here is done. You may as well go back again, but I must bandage your eyes first." Tom stood quite still and let the strange fairy blindfold his eyes with a handkerchief. He did not feel the least bit alarmed about it.



3. Nor was Tom very surprised by what happened next. In the world of the water babies so many things had taken place that he had ceased to wonder at the magic of them. With one hand Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did tied the handkerchief around his eyes and with the other she took it off. "Now you are safe," she said. It seemed to Tom that he had not moved a single step, but when he opened his eyes and looked round him, he knew that he was back again on the bottom of the sea close to Saint Brandan's Isle.



4. Tom walked out of the sea and up the gently-sloping beach. The first things he saw were the cliffs of Saint Brandan's Isle, standing high and sharp against the rosy dawn. The wind sang softly in the rocks and water sang among the caves.

5. The seabirds also sang as they streamed out into the ocean, but among the songs one came across the water more sweet and clear than the others. It was the song of a young girl's voice and it was the sweetest sound that Tom had ever heard.



6. Tom hurried to find out who was singing, and there upon a rock sat the most graceful creature that was ever seen. When Tom came near she looked up and, behold, it was Ellie, the girl Tom had seen in Harthover House when he had been sweeping the chimneys. "Oh, Miss Ellie," said Tom. "Oh, Tom," she said, "I thought you were never coming."



7. Tom looked at Ellie and Ellie looked at Tom. They might have stood like that for years, if a voice had not said to them, "Attention, children. Are you never going to look at me again?" There stood the ugly fairy. "Oh!" exclaimed Ellie. "You are our Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did." "Am I?" said the fairy. "Take another close look at me, children."



8. As if by magic, the ugly fairy seemed to change. "Now you are Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by," said Tom. "You have grown quite beautiful now." Tom opened his mouth in wonder. The ugly fairy, Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did, and the lovely fairy, Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by, were supposed to be sisters, so how could they be just one person? "I cannot make it out at all," he said.



9. "Now look again," the fairy said. And once more there was a magic change. "Now you are Mother Carey," said Tom. "We met when I swam under the Shiny Wall into the pool where the good old whales go to be made young again. It was you who told me the way to the Other-end-of-Nowhere, and it was there that I found my old master, Mr. Grimes."



10. "Look again," the fairy said. "Who am I now?" "You are now the gipsy woman who met me the day I went to sweep the chimneys at Harthover House," said Tom. Smiling, she turned to Ellie. "You may take him home with you now," she said. "Tom has become good by helping Mr. Grimes."



11. Did Tom marry Ellie? Nobody really knows. This is all a fairy-tale and in fairy-tales it is usually only princes and princesses who marry. But Tom and Ellie were so kind and so good that there is no reason to think that they should not be the equals of a prince and princess. Is there? All we know is that they were very happy.

Another lovely story called "The Tinder Box" starts next week in Once Upon A Time.



Insects are small creatures, but very easy to find, for there are many hundreds of thousands of them, and they are to be found all over world.

All

THE STAG BEETLE

There may be as many as 250,000 different beetles all over the world, far more than all the other kinds of animals—birds, fish, reptiles and mammals—put together. The Stag Beetle is the biggest beetle found in Britain. It gets its name because its long, pincer-like jaws look like a stag's antlers. The male has very long jaws, which it uses to fight other males when it is looking for a mate. The female has much shorter jaws but they are much more powerful and can give a very sharp nip. The female lays her eggs in an old tree. When the grubs hatch out, they live on the decaying wood and grow fat. When fully grown, the grub makes a cocoon and inside this it gradually changes from a soft, white grub, to a hard, black beetle.

THE WATER BEETLE

Some beetles live in ponds and lakes, so they are called Water Beetles. They have very long back legs, which are flat and thickly covered with hairs, so that they make very good paddles for swimming. The beetle takes its own air supply down under the water with it, stored in air-tubes under the wing-cases, which fit closely to its body. Every so often, the Water Beetle has to come up to the surface again, to renew its supply of air. Most beetles have two pairs of wings. The front pair develop into thick, hard covers. These fold over the beetle's soft body to protect it. The other wings are used for flying. As well as being able to swim, the Water Beetle can fly, like other beetles, and is able to fly from one pond to another.



Sorts of Insects



THE GRASSHOPPER

Insects can be found all over the world, in very hot places as well as very cold places. Many of them can live on land and in water. All insects have a body which is divided into three parts—a head, a middle section called a thorax, and a rear section, called an abdomen. They have six legs and most insects have two pairs of wings and can fly. The Grasshopper, however, relies on its ability to jump to escape from its enemies. It has very long, strongly-built hind legs with powerful muscles, so it can jump a very long distance. Grasshoppers eat a great amount of green stuff and they like to sit in the grass, basking in the sunshine. Their green, or mottled brown, coloured bodies help to keep them hidden from sight.

THE ANT

Ants live together in large colonies, which are very carefully organised. All ant colonies are divided into three classes of ants—queen, males and workers. At the head is the queen ant. There is only one queen and she lays the eggs. If more queens hatch out, they are sent out of the nest to make new nests for themselves. A few males hatch out, but they have very short lives. Most ants are worker ants and they spend their whole lives doing all the work of the nest. They are the nurses who look after the eggs and grubs until they hatch into new ants. They are the housekeepers who look after the nest, keeping it clean and tidy. Some of them become soldier ants and guard the nest, while others find food.



BRER RABBIT

This week's story . . . The Log.

ONE day, when Brer Rabbit was going at a good lickety-clip along the bank of the river, he came upon a log. It was a mighty big log from a mighty big tree and he did a quick hop, skip and a jump to have a closer look at it.

"My, my, my! It's floated down the river from the timber forest and here it's got itself stuck," he said. "Now, it seems to me that if I could push it back into the water and float it down to the sawmill, the people there would pay me a whole lot of money and then I could buy a bag of best carrots for me and my family."

Just as he was wondering how to set

about it, along came Brer Fox, Brer Wolf and Brer Bear.

Seeing as how they all looked hungry and were very fond of rabbit stew, Brer Rabbit dodged aside and hid behind a tuft of grass.

"What do I spy?" said Brer Fox.

"It's a log," said Brer Wolf.

"I saw it first," said Brer Bear.

Brer Fox, being the smallest of the three, gave a sly smile.

"Let's say that we all saw it first at the same time," he said. "If we all push and float it down to the sawmill, we'll get plenty enough money to share between

the three of us."

So they huffed and they pushed, then they had a rest and huffed and pushed some more, but that log was too heavy to be rolled into the river.

"We need help," panted Brer Fox.

"Such as a horse and a rope," gasped Brer Wolf.

"Mr. Man is the only one who has a horse around here," puffed Brer Bear, "and you know that he'd never lend it to us. It's no good. We'll have to go home and have a rest and try again later."

So off they went, and Brer Rabbit popped out from behind the tuft of grass.

Being the quickest thinker around those parts, Brer Rabbit soon got a clever idea. You see, he knew that Mr. Man walked his horse home from the fields every evening at about the same time.

The first part of the plan was to hurry to his house and collect Mrs. Rabbit's very best pair of shoes. Then he went to the road and dropped one of the shoes in the middle of it.

Presently, along came Mr. Man leading his horse. And when he saw the shoe lying in the road he stopped. "Such a nice smart shoe, and just about the right size for my daughter," he muttered. "What a pity there's only one. Half a pair of shoes is no good."

Mr. Man left the shoe where it was, clicked his tongue at the horse and started to move on. At the same time, artful Brer Rabbit dashed through the bushes and trees, taking a short cut to the road a mile farther on. And, here, he put down the other shoe.

Clop-clop-clop! Along came Mr. Man again with the horse. And, of course, he soon saw the shoe lying in the road.

So what did he do, but pick it up. "What a pity I left the other one way back along the road," he said. "But if I hurry back it will still be there—and then I'll have the pair."

So he left the big horse to nibble the grass and hurried back along the road. But, as you can guess, the horse did not nibble the grass for very long. Brer Rabbit came out from behind a tree.

"Gee-up, my friend," he said. "You and I have work to do." Brer Rabbit had arranged it all very well. The river was not very far away and, with the help of the horse and rope, Brer Rabbit soon had that heavy log off the bank and floating in the water.

Then he took the horse back to the road and left it contentedly nibbling the grass, until Mr. Man came back.

Brer Rabbit did not wait to see him collect the horse and then happily walk it home, with the shoes tucked under his arm. Nor did he wait to see Brer Fox, Brer Wolf and Brer Bear return to the river to find the log had disappeared.

By that time, Brer Rabbit was sitting on the floating log, guiding it down to the sawmill, where he collected a useful amount of money for it—enough for a week's supply of carrots for all the family and a new pair of shoes for Mrs. Rabbit.

What a clever little fellow he is!

Another tale of Brer Rabbit in next week's Once Upon A Time.



Fun With Numbers

Here are five pictures. Try to answer the question under each picture and have fun learning to count.



1. There is a well-known song about green bottles hanging on a wall. How many can you count?



2. Three boys come and take a bottle each. How many bottles are left in the crate?



3. The dog is after a bottle, too, but he tips out 2 and breaks them. How many bottles are left now?



4. The milkman comes and leaves 3 bottles of milk. How many bottles are there now altogether?




5. The housewife gives the milkman one of the green bottles. How many are left hanging on the wall?

Answers:

1. 10; 2. 10-3=7; 3. 7-2=5; 4. 3+5=8; 5. 8-1=7.

SUGAR



We get sugar from sugar cane or sugar beet. Sugar cane is grown in hot places, like the West Indies. Above the cane is being cut. It is taken to the factory, where the stalks are crushed by heavy rollers, to squeeze out the juice. The juice is boiled in big pans, until it separates into crystals of brown sugar and a syrup called molasses. The juice from the roots of the sugar beet is made into sugar in this way.

The brown sugar crystals are sent to refineries to be purified and made into white sugar. This is the sugar we buy in packets from the shops.



This story is a Memory Test. Read it carefully and then turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions there.

A Famous French Song

"D A-DA-DI-DA-DI-DA," sang a young French soldier to himself as he scribbled down the notes of a song which he had just composed. The tune was buzzing around in his head and he was very pleased with himself, for it seemed to him a very good marching tune.

The young soldier's name was Captain Rouget de Lisle. He sang, wrote poetry and played the violin and now he thought he had written a very good song. The other soldiers thought so, too.

It was the year 1792, the year in which the terrible French Revolution broke out, and as the soldiers from the town of Marseilles marched on Paris, they sang Captain de Lisle's song.

To the strains of his song, they attacked the palace, where the King and Queen of France lived, and took them prisoner. Because it was sung by these revolutionary soldiers from Marseilles, the song got the name by which we know it today . . . "The Marseillaise".

Captain de Lisle's mother heard it sung by the soldiers of the revolution. She was a Royalist who always supported the King and Queen, and she was very angry when she heard that her son had composed the favourite song of the Revolution.

The King and Queen were executed, France became a Republic and many of the nobles and their families were arrested and executed by the leaders of the Republic.

Even Captain de Lisle was condemned as a Royalist, but he heard that he was to be arrested and fled just in time.

On the way he stopped for a rest. In the distance he heard an excited crowd singing at the tops of their voices. He did not at first recognise the song, so he asked a passer-by what it was. "Oh, they are singing 'The Marseillaise'," came the reply. De Lisle knew then that they were Republicans, and his life was in danger if anyone recognised him, so he hurried on until he reached the safety of the Jura mountains.

Many years later, when times were quiet and safe again, Rouget de Lisle was given a pension in recognition of the famous song he had written.

ARE YOU MISSING SOME COPIES OF "ONCE UPON A TIME" ?

If you are, and would like the back numbers to complete your collection, the address to write to is: City Magazines, Aldwych House, 81, Aldwych, London, W.C.1. The cost is 1/8d. each, including postage.





Why the Sea is Salty



1. One day, young Carl was sent by his mother to buy a loaf. On his way back he met a very old man by the roadside. The old man looked so tired and hungry that Carl took pity on him and gave him the new-baked loaf of bread.



2. In return the old man gave Carl a rusty old coffee-grinder. "You only have to say 'Grinder, grinder, turn away' to get what you wish," he said. "To stop it, say 'Grinder, grinder, churn no more'."



3. Carl was pleased until he got back home and showed his mother. "Take that rusty old bit of rubbish away and don't come back until you have something for us all to eat tonight," she said. "You foolish boy!"



4. Poor Carl was so unhappy that he went down to the beach and his eyes were so filled with tears that he did not notice a band of pirates until it was too late. "Seize him," commanded the pirate chief. "He looks strong enough to work and slave aboard my ship." Some of the crew grabbed Carl and marched him away.



5. But when they dragged him on board the pirate ship, Carl was quick to tell them about the magic coffee-grinder. "Watch what happens," he said. Then he put the grinder down and told it to start turning. "I wish for gold," he said. At once the old grinder started turning and poured out a great heap of gold coins.



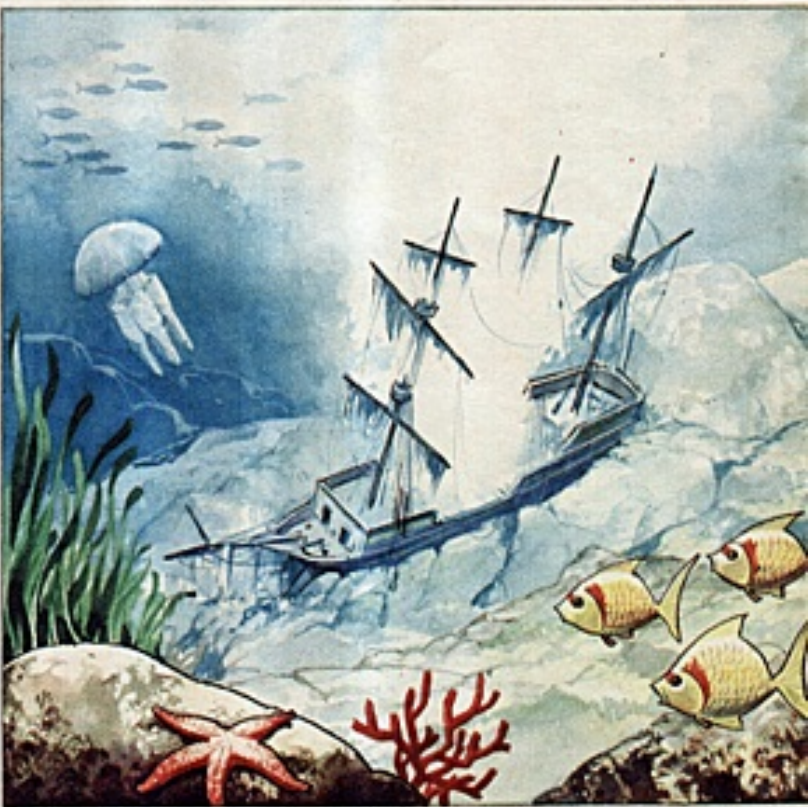
6. The pirate chief was delighted. "I will keep this magic grinder and let you go, my lad," he said. "Is that a bargain?" Carl readily agreed. "Just give me a few of the gold coins so that I can buy food for the family," he said. The pirates did this and also gave Carl a boat in which to row himself ashore.



7. The pirates' ship set sail and was well out at sea when the cook came up on deck. "Captain, sir," he reported, "we are without even a grain of salt on board." "Is that so?" smiled the pirate chief. "Bring the magic coffee-grinder and place it on deck and see if it can produce salt as well as it can produce gold."



8. "Grinder, grinder, turn away—make me salt this very day," said the pirate chief. The grinder started to churn and they were all delighted when salt poured out of it. "Stop! Stop!" they shouted when the deck was knee-deep in salt. But they did not say the right magic words, so the grinder kept on turning.



9. The magic grinder went on and on and produced so much salt in fact that the pirate ship sank under the weight of it. And there lies the pirate ship and the grinder at the bottom of the sea to this very day. Nobody has been able to stop the grinder making salt—and that is why, so people say, the sea is so salty.

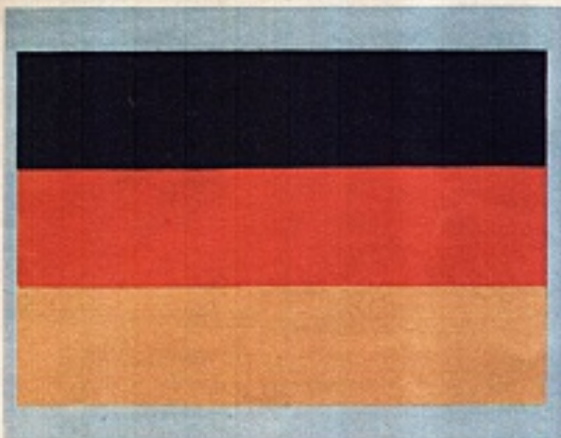


Beautiful Paintings

Here is a lovely picture, painted by Eileen Soper, and you will not be surprised to know that she called it "The Robins". Do you know anything about robins? They are cheeky little birds, and as a matter of fact they are not often seen in pairs, as this picture shows. You are more likely to see a robin on its own in your garden, where it will come quite close to you if you do

not frighten it with a sudden movement. The robins shown in the picture probably have a nest among the blackberry brambles, but they also nest in strange places, such as an old boot or flower-pot in a shed. Cut the picture out to hang on the wall of your room and enjoy looking at it, or paste it in a scrap book of beautiful pictures.

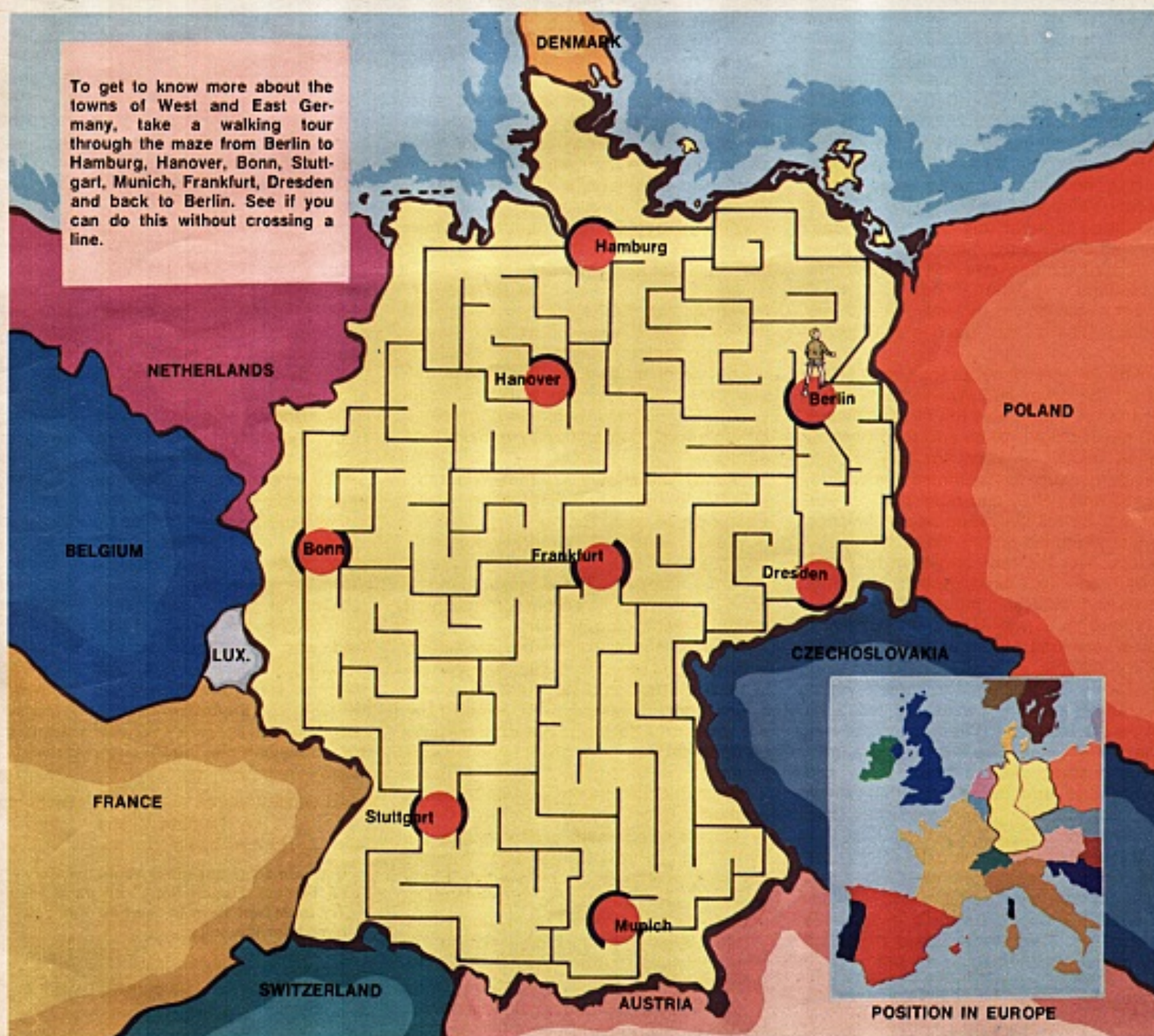
West and East Germany



Since the end of the Second World War, Germany has been divided into two parts, West and East, but here we show you the country as a whole, with the other countries of Europe which surround it. Each part has its own flag, that on the left being the flag of West Germany, and that on the right the flag of East Germany. Although actually in East Germany the city of Berlin is also divided into two parts between West and East.



To get to know more about the towns of West and East Germany, take a walking tour through the maze from Berlin to Hamburg, Hanover, Bonn, Stuttgart, Munich, Frankfurt, Dresden and back to Berlin. See if you can do this without crossing a line.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week . . . The Haunted Castle . . . part 1

NOW, as you know, Winifred was a mouse who lived in a little cottage in the country. She was busy all day, keeping her cottage clean and tidy and cooking delicious buns and cakes.

One sunny afternoon Bertie, Winifred's boy-friend, came riding along on his bicycle. "Yoo-hoo, Winifred," he called, as he pedalled in through the gate. "It's such a fine afternoon. Let's go for a picnic. I've no work to do."

Winifred thought this was a fine idea. She had done all the cleaning and all the baking, so she packed some food into her basket and they set off.

"Let's go down by the river," said Bertie. "That's the best place for a picnic."

Winifred agreed, so off they went. They sat on the grass and Winifred unpacked her basket, which was full of sandwiches and newly-baked cakes and iced buns. It wasn't really a very exciting picnic, though, because Bertie ate so many sandwiches and cakes and buns that he was very full, so full that when he had finished he just stretched out on the grass, tipped his cap over his eyes and went to sleep.

Winifred didn't mind, though. "I expect Bertie is tired," she thought. "He works very hard on Farmer Hayseed's farm. And it was very kind of him to think of taking me for a picnic, after all." She didn't even mind when Bertie began to snore—which was something he always did when he lay on his back—for Winifred was a very kind, patient soul. She didn't always have to go rushing around here, there and everywhere, and doing something new, like her cousin, Stephanie, the town mouse.

At last, Bertie gave an extra-loud snore and woke himself right up. "I'm sorry, Winifred," he said, sitting up. "Why, I must have dropped off for a minute. It's your cakes. They are so good that I ate too many and then I was so full of cake that I just had to have a little rest."

"Well, I enjoyed sitting by the river anyway," said Winifred. "It's very peace-

ful. But I think it's time we were getting back, so if you'll just help me pack up these few things, we'll be off."

Winifred and Bertie picked up all the paper and the remains of their picnic and made sure that everything looked neat and tidy again and then Bertie said, "As we've just been sitting here and not done anything much, I think we'll walk back the long way. It will be a change for you, Winifred, and it's not late."

Winifred agreed. She thought a nice long walk would really do Bertie good after all that tea and she hadn't been walking along the river bank for ages.

Neither had Bertie, and so he missed the path where they should have turned off to get back to Winifred's cottage.

They went on and on, and it was getting dusk. "It's very funny, Bertie," said Winifred, who was beginning to feel a little bit tired. "I don't think I've been here before."

"Funny you should say that, Winifred," said Bertie. "But I had that feeling myself. I think we've come too far."

"Eek," squeaked Winifred suddenly. "What's that?"

Bertie stopped. There, just round a bend in the river, was a big, old castle. It looked a dark, gloomy place.

"Why, I believe I remember my mother talking about an old castle, somewhere in these parts," said Winifred. "She said it was very old and almost ruined now, but it used to be the home of some very noble mice and there are lots of legends about it."

"Well, it looks gloomy enough to be full of ghosts, now," muttered Bertie.

"Ghosts!" boomed a deep voice behind them. Poor Bertie and Winifred nearly jumped out of their skins, but it was only Mr. Badger, the Postman, who had come up behind them unnoticed. "Well, it's a funny thing you should say that, because there have been some funny rumours about the place being haunted, just recently," said Postman Badger. "Not that I believe them, mind

you," he added hastily. "Still, I'm glad I don't have to deliver letters there."

"Are you still delivering letters?" asked Winifred.

"Yes, but this is my last call," said Postman Badger. "I had to bring a letter to this cottage. And here's Mrs. Mouse, coming out to get it. She's just seen me. You ask her about the old castle."

Mrs. Mouse and Freddy Frog joined them at that moment.

"Ooh, yes. Ever so creepy it is at night," said Mrs. Mouse, looking up at the castle. "I can see it from my window, you know, and just lately I've seen some ghostly lights flickering in the windows—and what's worse, a strange figure appeared on the battlements the other night. Gave me the creeps it did, it looked so ghostly."

"A ghostly figure?" said Postman Badger in amazement. "Are you sure you weren't dreaming, Mrs. Mouse?"

"Quite certain, Mr. Postman," she replied. "You saw it, didn't you, Freddy?"

The little frog nodded his head.

"Well, I don't believe in ghosts, so I'm going over to take a look," said Bertie.

"Coming, Winifred?"

"Ooh, er, well, I suppose it would be better if there were two of us," said Winifred, who wasn't quite sure whether she believed in ghosts or not. "Yes, of course I'll come with you, Bertie. Lead on, then."

"Ooh, you are brave," said Mrs. Mouse. "Well, if you're sure you really want to go, come with me and I'll show you where there is a boat."

Next week Winifred and Bertie investigate the Haunted Castle.

Here are some questions about the story "A Famous French Song" on page 10. Try to answer them to see how well you remember the story:

1. What was the name of the song?
2. Who wrote it?
3. What was the date of the start of the French Revolution?



The Brave Little Baker



1. Once there lived a very sad king. His kingdom was threatened by two huge giants, a fierce unicorn and a wild boar. They all lived in the forest near the king's castle. There was nothing the king could do about them and his subjects lived in terror of them.



2. At last, in despair, the king declared that whoever rid the kingdom of the giants, the unicorn and the boar, should marry his only daughter and become king. Many brave men tried and failed. Then, one day, a young baker read the king's proclamation.



3. The young baker went to the king and begged to be allowed to try to rid the kingdom of its troubles. All the fine lords and ladies laughed at him. "How do you think you can succeed when my bravest soldiers have failed?" asked the king. "I do not know, Your Majesty," the lad replied. "But I am willing to try." The king agreed and the young baker set off into the forest.



4. He had not gone far when he came across the two giants. Luckily for him they were fast asleep, so he picked up a pocketful of stones and climbed up into the tree above the sleeping giants. Then he hurled a stone at one of the giants with all his might. It woke the giant, who thought that his friend had hit him. "What are you doing?" he roared. The second giant woke up, too, at that.



5. "I have done nothing," he said. "Go back to sleep, you must have been dreaming." When the two giants were asleep again, the lad threw another stone and again it hit the first giant. He jumped to his feet and, without stopping to ask questions, gave his friend a hard blow. The second giant woke up, very angry.



6. In no time a fierce fight was raging and before long the two giants had knocked each other out. When they were both senseless, the little baker jumped down from the tree and tied them both up. Then he made his way back to the castle and told the king to send his men to fetch the two captured giants back from the forest.



7. The king could hardly believe his ears, but he sent his soldiers into the forest and before long they returned with the two giants, bound hand and foot. "Now I must see what I can do about the unicorn which is giving so much trouble," said the little baker. This time, the lords and ladies did not laugh as he set out.

Do not miss the next exciting part of this story of the brave little baker.



8. The lad had not gone very far before he heard the thunder of hoofs. He paused, and soon a fierce-looking unicorn appeared among the trees. "Aha," said the little baker. "So you have four legs, have you? Well, then, let us see what you can do with your four legs, against my two." And he faced the unicorn bravely.

FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people, places and things in our world.



1. **X-Rays.** These wonderful X-rays are used a lot in hospitals all over the world by doctors, surgeons and dentists to examine the inside of our bodies. Such things as broken bones can be detected at once, but it was only in the year 1895 that Wilhelm Röntgen, a Munich professor, discovered the secret of X-rays.



2. **Cauliflower.** This vegetable is grown in many parts of the world and is very tasty when cooked. It is really a member of the cabbage family and the name "cauliflower" really means "cabbage flower". Its white, fleshy head is served as a vegetable, often with a sauce made of butter, milk and flour.



3. **The Netherlands.** The kingdom of the Netherlands is usually called Holland, and is known as the "land of the windmills". These are very useful and work pumps to keep the low-lying countryside from being flooded. They also make an attractive picture.



4. **The Magna Carta.** King John of England was a greedy, wicked King, but he was made to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, at a spot called Runnymede, by the River Thames. The Magna Carta promised that the King's people would be treated more kindly.